

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending, with Claims 1-14 under active examination. Applicants submit that newly-added Claim 22 is directed to the elected invention. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The obviousness-type double patenting rejection of Claims 1-14 of the present application over Claims 1-6 of U.S. patent No. 6,403,221 (hereinafter referred to as “the ‘221 patent”) is respectfully traversed.

The Office has failed to demonstrate that the claims of the present application are obvious over Claims 1-6 of the ‘221 patent. The claims of the present application specify a glass transition point or decomposition temperature feature which is not specified in the claims of the ‘221 patent. In addition, the claims of the ‘221 patent specify that epoxy resin (A) contains a phosphorus atom, a feature which is not specified in the claims of the present application.

In the view of the foregoing, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The obviousness-type double patenting rejection of Claims 1-14 of the present application over Claims 1-6 of U.S. patent No. 6,805,958 (hereinafter referred to as “the ‘958 patent”) is respectfully traversed.

The Office has failed to demonstrate that the claims of the present application are obvious over Claims 1-6 of the ‘958 patent. For example, the claims of the present application specify a glass transition point or decomposition temperature feature which is not specified in the claims of the ‘221 patent. In addition, the claims of the ‘958 patent specify that epoxy resin (A) contains a phosphorus atom, a feature which is not specified in the claims of the present application.

In the view of the foregoing, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit herewith a copy of Chinese application No. 1293218 A and an English translation of the same.

The Chinese application is part of the same patent family as the '221 patent and the '958 patent, discussed above with respect to obviousness-type double patenting. The Chinese application was published on May 2, 2001. This date is more than one year prior to the filing date of the international application (July 12, 2002). 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Consideration of this reference is respectfully requested.

The objection to page 9 of the specification is believed to be obviated by the amendment above.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

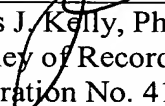
Respectfully submitted,

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